

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMABAD 1351 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO NEW
DELHI, KABUL & DACCA DATED 13 FEBRUARY 1975:

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 1351

ASMO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, US

SUBJ: GOP AIDE MEMOIRE ON INDIAN OBJECTIONS TO US ARMS
SUPPLY POLICY CHANGE

REF: ISLAMABAD 1350

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF AN AIDE MEMOIRE HANDED
TO FOREIGN ENVOYS IN ISLAMABAD (NOT INCLUDING US) AS
REPORTED IN REFTEL.

2. QUOTE: ON THE OCCASION OF THE PAKISTAN PRIME
MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, THE GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA EMBARKED UPON A VOCIFEROUS AND INTENSE CAM-
PAIGN AGAINST THE REMOVAL OF THE U.S. BAN ON SALE OF
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ARMS, ALLEGING THAT ANY SALE OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN WOULD

CREATE TENSION AND VITIATE THE PROCESS OF NORMALISATION
IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION.

THE U.S. BAN APPLIES TO INDIA AS WELL. BUT INDIA
OPPOSES ITS REMOVAL BECAUSE IT WANTS PAKISTAN TO REMAIN
CUT OFF FROM ITS TRADITIONAL SOURCE OF SUPPLIES, AND
BECAUSE INDIA DOES NOT NEED TO IMPORT ARMS FROM THE
UNITED STATES ANY WAY. INDIA POSSESSES A LARGE DOMESTIC
WEAPONS INDUSTRY WHICH PRODUCES TANKS AND COMBAT
AIRCRAFT, WARSHIPS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT. BESIDES,
IT HAS USUALLY OBTAINED, AND CONTINUES TO GET, SOPHISTI-
CATED WEAPONS FROM THE USSR, INCLUDING MIG-21 AND SU-7
FIGHTERS, T-54 AND T-55 TANKS, SUBMARINES, SAMs,
MISSILE BOATS ETC. IN CONTRAST, PAKISTAN'S DOMESTIC
ORDNANCE CAPACITY IS INSIGNIFICANT AND THE BAN ON
U.S. SALES HAS OBSTRUCTED NOT ONLY THE REPLACEMENT OF
OBSOLETE WEAPONS BUT EVEN THE UPKEEP OF ARMS OF U.S.
ORIGIN.

WHILE CEASELESSLY CAMPAIGNING TO BLOCK PAKISTAN'S
EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN ITS DEFENCE CAPABILITY, INDIA HAS
CONTINUED TO EXPAND ITS OWN MILITARY STRENGTH. WITH
A MILLION MEN UNDER ARMS, WITH 2,000 TANKS, INDIA HAS
THE FOURTH LARGEST ARMY IN THE WORLD; WITH OVER 800
COMBAT AIRCRAFT, IT HAS THE FIFTH LARGEST AIR FORCE;
AND ITS NAVY, THE EIGHTH LARGEST, HAS AN AIRCRAFT
CARRIER, 6 SUBMARINES AND OVER 60 OTHER CRAFT. INDIA,
MOREOVER, HAS DEVELOPED AN EXPLOSIVE NUCLEAR DEVICE
WHICH IS TECHNOLOGICALLY NO DIFFERENT FROM A NUCLEAR
WEAPON.

INDIA'S MILITARY BUDGET FOR THE CURRENT YEAR
EXCEEDS 2,500 MILLION DOLLARS, EXCLUDING THE EXPENDITURE
ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NUCLEAR DEVICE.

GIVEN THE DISPARITY OF RESOURCES BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES, PAKISTAN CANNOT OBVIOUSLY BE INTERESTED IN
AN ARMS RACE WITH INDIA. BUT GIVEN THE PRIMORDIAL
NEEDS OF A STATE IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT, NOT TO
MENTION INDIA'S PROCLIVITY TO USE FORCE, PAKISTAN HAS
TO MAINTAIN A DEFENCE CAPABILITY.

AS FOR THE INDIAN ARGUMENT THAT PAKISTAN USED
THE ARMS IT OBTAINED FROM THE UNITED STATES AGAINST
INDIA, IT ONLY NEED TO BE POINTED OUT THAT THE CON-
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FLICTS OF THE PAST WERE NOT OF PAKISTAN'S CHOOSING.
INDIA USED ITS OWN AS WELL AS IMPORTED WEAPONS IN
AGGRESSIONS AGAINST PAKISTAN. TO DEFEND ITSELF, PAKISTAN
HAD TO USE THE WEAPONS IT POSSESSED.
IN VIEW OF THE DISPARITY IN MILITARY STRENGTH,
PAKISTAN CANNOT BE REGARDED AS A THREAT TO INDIA.
STILL, IF INDIA CONTINUES TO TRY TO BLOCK PAKISTAN'S
EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN EVEN A DEFENCE CAPABILITY, THE

CONCLUSION MUST BE DRAWN THAT INDIA'S CONCEPT OF STABILITY IS BASED ON THE TOTAL SECURITY OF INDIA AND THE TOTAL INSECURITY OF PAKISTAN. THAT, HOWEVER, IS NOT A FORMULA FOR STABILITY. IF INDIA SEEKS TO IMPOSE HEGEMONY AND DOMINATION, THAT CANNOT PROMOTE THE EVOLUTION OF NORMAL GOOD-NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DURABLE PEACE IN THE REGION.

PAKISTAN HAS MADE A CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE NORMALISATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION WHICH PAKISTAN BELIEVES SERVES THE INTERESTS OF ALL ITS PEOPLES. BUT THE CONTINUING INDIAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN ITS DEFENCE CAPABILITY CANNOT BUT CAST A SHADOW ON THE PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE.

THE INDIAN CAMPAIGN TO BLOCK THE SALE OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN IS A CONCRETE CONTRADICTION OF THE PROFESSIONS OF GOODWILL TOWARDS PAKISTAN THAT INDIAN LEADERS MAKE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH LEADERS OF COUNTRIES THAT DESIRE THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION. IT ALSO EVIDENCES DISREGARD FOR THE UNIVERSALLY RECOGNISED PRINCIPLES OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF STATES, MUTUAL RESPECT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. PAKISTAN HOPES THAT INDIA WILL BE DISSUADED FROM THIS ATTITUDE AND CASE EFFORTS TO BLOCK THE REMOVAL OF THE US BAN ON SALE OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN.

UNQUOTE.

LUPPI

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